

GRAY MOLD, BOTRYTIS CINEREA PERS. EX. FR., OF BLACKBERRIES  
IN FLORIDA

Harry C. Burnett

The history of the fungus *Botrytis cinerea* Pers. ex. Fr. has recently been summarized by Alfieri (1). Gray mold, *Botrytis cinerea*, has been reported attacking fruit, buds and shoots of blackberry (5). The author has not found any report of this fungus attacking blackberries in Florida (2, 3, and 4). In February, 1966, E. R. Fatic, Plant Specialist, Division of Plant Industry, found this organism affecting Oklawaha blackberry flowers in a planting at Sorrento, Florida. In March, Plant Specialists R. R. Snell, and B. E. Tyner found this disease on the fruit of both Oklawaha and Flordagrand varieties of blackberry at Homeland. They reported over 10% of the fruit infected. In April, Plant Specialists J. W. McLeod reported a 10% infection of fruit from Lakeland, and in May E. R. Simmons observed petal drop with the results that the blossoms did not set fruit. In all of the above cases the flowers and fruit were moderately to heavily infested with thrips, *Frankliniella bispinosa* Morgan. It is not known at this time whether thrips injury aids in the spread of *Botrytis*, but injured flowers and fruit are probably more susceptible to the fungus.

**SYMPTOMS.** The symptoms of infected blackberry flowers are similar to those of other plants, i.e., round to oval or irregular spotting of petals and usually to a lesser degree on other flower parts.

The infected fruit is partially or totally covered with a fuzzy gray mold (Fig. 1). When the fruit is infected early, it often fails to reach normal size and may become mummified. Sometimes only part of the fruit is infected and fails to develop, resulting in a misshapen fruit.

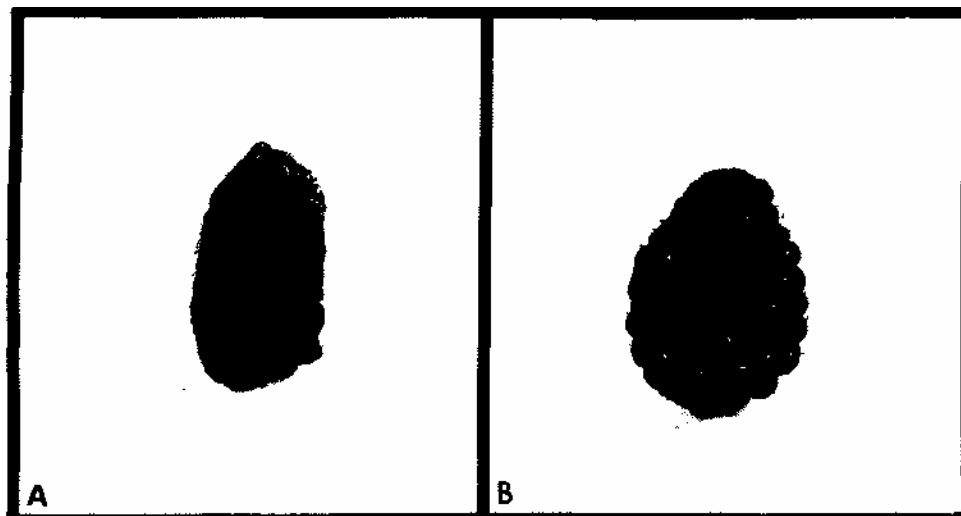


Fig. 1. Gray mold, *Botrytis cinerea* Pers. ex. Fr., infected (A) and healthy (B) Flordagrand blackberries.

CONTROL. Although disease control measures are known for this fungus affecting other crops, none has been established for this disease on blackberries.

#### Literature Cited

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